## Grading Rubric for Written Work

(The evaluations for individual papers will reflect these general guidelines.)

**Substantive:Content and Development**

Excellent: Paper is dear, focused and interesting with a dearly defined purpose statement. It includes relevant material, effective research, and/or well‑developed support for opinions. Writer demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and shows the ability to link theories to practical experience. Paper is thorough and demonstrates originality.

Good: Paper is mostly clear and focused, though the writing does not particularly engage the reader. Efforts are made to use relevant material and research to support findings; support for opinions has not been thoroughly developed. Understanding of subject matter appears limited, practical experience is not well linked to theories, and the paper lacks substance and originality.

Barely Adequate: Paper is unclear on central purpose and/or requires that the reader make inferences based on sketchy details. Information is limited, missing or unsupported, and the writer fails to demonstrate basic understanding of subject matter. Practical experience is not adequately addressed.

**Organization**

Excellent: The paper's organization emphasizes the central theme or purpose and demonstrates an accurate audience analysis. Sequencing and transitioning of ideas is logical. Appropriate sections including an introduction, body and conclusion lead the reader toward understanding.

Good: The reader can readily follow what is being said, but the paper's overall organization is at times, a stiff formula or lacks a consistent pace. The introduction and/or conclusion is weak. The sequence of ideas is not smooth and/or logical.

Barely Adequate: The paper’s organization is haphazard and disjointed. Writing lacks direction and continuity among ideas, details, and support material. The lack of organization distorts or obscures the paper's main point and confuses the reader. Introduction and/or conclusion are missing.

**Technical--Word Choice and Voice**

Excellent: The works used convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way. The writing is full and rich, yet concise. The writer is writing for the reader, using powerful verbs, active voice, and appropriate vocabulary. Ideas are stated with conviction.

Good: The language used does convey the message. However, it is quite ordinary and often contains ”generic" words, phrases, and jargon. The writing lacks detail, precision, conviction, and although understandable, rarely captures the reader's attention.

Barely Adequate: The writer struggles with a limited vocabulary and is unable to convey meaning. Words are imprecise, inadequate, or incorrect. Language is vague, abstract, or redundant and relays only general messages.

# **Sentence Structure and Conventions**

Excellent: Sentences are well constructed with consistently strong, varied structure that makes reading easy. The paper demonstrates a strong grasp of standard writing conventions and includes no more than two total errors in spelling, punctuation, word usage and/or grammar. The writer uses proper sentence structure and conventions to enhance the paper's readability.

Good: Sentences are more mechanical than fluid and occasional awkward construction forces the reader to slow down or reread sentences. The writer shows good control over simple sentences, but struggles with complex syntax. The paper contains between three and six total errors in spelling, punctuation, work usage, and/or grammar.

Barely Adequate

Barely Adequate: Numerous errors in usage, sentence structure, spelling, or punctuation repeatedly distract the reader. Irregular sentence patterns make the text difficult to follow. Many sentences seem disjointed or awkward. Spelling and basic punctuation are often incorrect.

**Technical and Substantive--**Documentation and Use of Sources

Excellent: The paper contains no more than two errors in application of MLA writing standards. There is a dearly documented connection between theory and practice. The paper demonstrates use of several sources beyond basic course requirements.

Good: The paper contains between three and six errors in application of MLA writing standards. Documentation of connection between theory and practice lacks clarity and/or balance. The paper demonstrates use of few sources beyond basic course materials.

Barely Adequate: The paper contains more than six errors in the application of MLA standards. There is a limited or no connection between theory and practice. The paper demonstrates use of limited or no sources beyond basic course materials